

KEOWEE COURIER

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—By—

STECK, SHELOR & SCHRODER.

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WALHALLA, S. C.:

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30, 1914.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Courier to-day extends to its every reader all good wishes for a happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year. With this issue of The Courier we close another year so far as the appearing of the paper is concerned, and with the next issue we will have entered upon the great year of 1915. Let us all strive to make it a better year, a brighter year and a happier year than 1914 has been.

Let us make it a peaceful year, a plentiful year, a prosperous and a profitable year, not only from the standpoint of material things, but from the standpoint of morality and spirituality. We have stagnated on material prosperity, and it is more than probable that we have become lax in attention to the higher duties of life. Let us examine into our lives carefully and seek to "build up the waste places" in our natures and our lives. In spiritual and material things "the Lord helps those who help themselves." Let us do our best. When we do less we fall short of what the Creator intended that we should be.

DAMAGED COTTON.

Once more we direct the attention of our farmer friends to the matter of protecting cotton. Read this item from the Greenwood Journal:

"T. W. Gaines broke the record purchasing cheap cotton to-day. A colored farmer sold a bale to him for 2 cents a pound, which netted the seller \$6.95 after the price for weighing was deducted. The cotton was badly damaged."

It is unnecessary for us to make any comment. This brief statement speaks whole volumes in a few lines.

THE FAIR PLAY AFFAIR.

Rumors continue to come from Fair Play as to undercurrents of a continuance of mob violence, or threatened mob violence, but so far as The Courier has been able to ascertain, these reports seem to be exaggerated, built up mainly, we suppose, upon the mutterings of some of those who possess largely the mob spirit. It is to be hoped that the citizens of the Fair Play section will be willing to let bad enough alone, the lawless element abtaining from further lawlessness and the law-abiding citizens lending every energy to the prevention of further crime and the bringing to justice of those who may be guilty of having incited and assisted in the diabolical deeds that have been committed in that community within the past few weeks. The good name of Fair Play has been stained in such a manner that it will take years to erase the blot. With the best that can be done "the damned spot will not out" until justice has been done and time has blotted from memory the vividness of the outrages that have been committed.

So far Oconee has not completed an inquiry into the tragedy, though we learn that an inquest was held without reaching any conclusion, the jury disagreeing. This is report, but we cannot give it as definite information. It is said, however, that Magistrate Rabbanks, of the Oakway section, is to open an inquiry next Monday, January 1th, and it is to be hoped that the legal procedure will have the hearty support and thorough co-operation of every law-abiding citizen of the community most directly concerned and of the county at large. Oconee has a good name to protect, and while no one should seek vengeance for the outrage that has been committed, no one should be satisfied with less than full justice, stern justice, adequate to meet the gravity of the situation and the enormity of the crimes committed.

In Hart county, Georgia, action has been taken in regard to that part of the crimes committed in that State, and the following statement as to results appeared in the Atlanta Constitution of last Wednesday:

"Coroner James Nixon and Dr. W. E. McCurry have returned from Knox Bridge, in upper Hart county, where

an inquest was held over George Gibson, who was beaten to death. Tom Spight, another negro, was badly beaten. The negroes are from South Carolina, just across the river. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of murder against W. P. McClure, Cal Kay, Will Kay and others."

It is to be hoped that there will be no "whitewashing"—and we believe there will be none—in the investigation that is to be held on the Carolina side next week. The Georgia officials seem to have acted with very proper promptness in the cases that concerned the Georgia side of the river. Let South Carolina officials act with a determination that no injustice shall be done to any man, yet that the majesty of the law shall be upheld, and that the guilty parties, regardless of position, family, influence, or any other consideration, may be speedily brought before the bar of justice.

News reaches us now that the third negro has died, this one being Tom Spight, who has been held for safekeeping in the Hart county jail. The following announcement was contained in the Atlanta Constitution of Tuesday morning:

"Governor John M. Slaton last night received a telegram from Mayor Thornton, of Hartwell, asking him to send troops to Hart county to protect the prisoners there from a threatened mob."

"It seems that last week two negroes were shot to death and two badly beaten on the bridge between Hart county, Georgia, and Oconee county, South Carolina. One of the negroes who was beaten died that night and the other died last night in the Hart county jail."

"The coroner's jury in Hart county met, and after careful consideration of the facts in the case, brought in charges of murder against a number of prominent South Carolinians. No arrests, however, have ever been made."

"Last night Hart county authorities received information that a mob was coming from Oconee county to storm the Hart county jail and take out the fourth negro to lynch him. Oconee citizens not knowing at that time that he was already dead."

"Fearing that when they found this negro was dead there would follow a wholesale lynching of other negroes in the jail, the mayor of Hartwell appealed to the Governor for troops. Governor Slaton responded with instructions to the mayor to confer with the sheriff about the matter and try to swear in a posse to take care of the situation. If the sheriff was unable to protect his prisoners the Governor was willing to send troops, but did not want to do so unless absolutely necessary. Later information was that the sheriff would probably be able to handle the situation without militia."

Is this lawless element determined that the good name of Oconee shall be dragged continually through mire and filth, and crime and degradation? Can they not be satisfied with having placed a blotch on the county's good record without continuing toadden that part of it which they have written in blood? Let there be an end of this rottenness that is coming to be a stench in the nostrils of all law-abiding citizens of the whole county and State.

PROGRESSIVE FARMING.

Oconee, we believe, is going to be one of the foremost progressive farming counties in South Carolina from now on. Her farmers have made a good start this past fall in getting in the ground largely increased acreages of wheat, oats and other small grain crops. This is a good beginning. But there will be much to do besides. Methods have to be changed, for Oconee has run too much to cotton in the past, and many have pinned their faith entirely to that staple to their decided disadvantage. One of the best ways to begin the new system of farming is to keep posted on what others are doing, noting successes here and failures there, and profiting by the experiences of others. The Progressive Farmer, published at Raleigh, N. C., comes nearer being just what the Oconee farmer needs than any other farm paper published, according to our view. Then the farmer should keep abreast of the times as to local and other matters. His county paper is what he needs for that.

The Courier is in position to offer a splendid combination at a small figure that will cover the needs of the Oconee farmer—The Keowee Courier and The Progressive Farmer one year for \$1.50. Read the announcements on the second and sixth pages of this week, subscribe for both papers and get in the fight for greater prosperity, diversification of farming, and the adoption of systematic and intelligent accounting of cost in the production of all crops.

Only \$1.50 will give you two of the best papers published for a whole twelve months. Take it up now.

DEBT-PAYING AND COTTON.

Two weeks ago The Courier related to the matter of discharging debts possible as a means of helping out the financial situation. We are glad to have evidences that our position is concurred in by not a few of our people—not only those who owe us, but those who owe other accounts, and who have stated that it will be their aim to close up all outstanding bills as speedily as possible.

There is no questioning the fact that the South is hard hit in a financial way. Yet we are inclined to the belief that we have all "hollered louder" than the actual pinch really justified. In spite of the fact that the Southern farmer has received an awful jolt in his cotton transactions, being forced to sell below cost if he sold, or hold for a living price that may never be realized, it is gratifying to know that the Southern farmer, in the face of this adversity, is infinitely better off than he was ten years ago. Had such a crisis arisen then as has come this year, the South, almost as a whole, would have "gone to the wall," for there were few farmers indeed who could have met the situation and stood their ground. To-day, however, the situation differs materially. That the Southern farmer has been hard hit no one will deny, but it is not reasonable for any one to deny that he is so much better able to stand the shock now than he would have been a few years back that, in spite of his adversity, his condition now is better by far than then.

The farmer is going to go ahead and benefit by this set-back—that is, the majority of the Southern farmers are going to do so. But there are some who will not profit by their sad experience. Only a few days ago we heard a farmer answer the question as to what he was going to raise this coming year with the simple word "Cotton." That man is tempting fate and courting disaster. "Cotton" is a mighty good thing in its place, and its only place on the Southern farm is at the top of the list of surplus crops. There it stands as a constant source of hope and strength. Anywhere else it is a constant menace—a ball and chain that is apt at any moment to overbalance the wheeler and drag him down into the financial whirlpool—a dead weight that will prevent his rising to the surface to "come back," as he is going to do this time.

"Cotton" is going to be the stumbling stone of the Southern farmer in 1915 if he does not watch himself and keep himself in check. There are hundreds of farmers every year who keep themselves busy "watching" their neighbors while they unwittingly steal prosperity from themselves.

Mr. Farmer, what are YOU going to plant in 1915? "Cotton"? Don't flirt longer with fate, planting cotton to the neglect of grain and feed crops. Plant enough corn to insure yourself ample feed for your stock and some to spare. It is too late now to give the small grains, such as wheat and oats and rye, and so on, extensive consideration as crops for grain next spring. But these grains will be well worth careful consideration during the coming months as possibilities for the future.

What the Southern farmer needs to do now is to discharge every possible debt that he can, thus preserving his credit unimpaired. Credit, like cotton, has been woefully misunderstood by the average farmer. Just as he has come to lean on cotton year by year, so he has come to lean on his credit month by month. Now that cotton has come to be practically worthless, unless the average farmer takes good care of his credit it is going to fall into cotton's condition. Can you realize just what the condition of the farmer will be a year from now if he raises another crop of valueless cotton and permits his credit to slump? Cotton is a good thing in its place and so is credit, but they are both dangerous and both treacherous. Too much of either will ruin the best of us.

Curtain your cotton crop and protect your credit. Those who follow that advice will be in position to stand on firm ground a year from now. Credit is a mighty good fort to go into for protection when hard pressed in the battle, but too many of us have rushed into it at the first sound of a gun on the skirmish line.

Keep your fort—your credit—in good shape, but keep on the outside of the fort until you have to get inside to deliver a telling blow on your adversary. You may get hurt occasionally on the outside, but it is better to suffer a few wounds battling on the outside than to shrivel up and waste away while moping about the damp, unwholesome recesses of old Fort Credit. It is certain death if you are allowing the walls of your credit fort to crumble.

Meet your obligations as far as you can, business men, farmers included, professional men—everybody. We are suffering to-day more

from lack of confidence than any other else. Get to work, everybody, in restoring confidence; rebuild your shattered places in your credit fort—see on the outside—out in the open and fight your battles for all you are worth.

The Courier received one Christmas present this year, and it is greatly appreciated. It came from our good friend, the Charleston Post, and is a bound copy of that excellent paper's recent "Greater Charleston Edition." Our contemporary will please accept thanks for this handsome and valuable remembrance.

GREENVILLE HAS BOMB SCARE.

Bomb May Be Filled With Dynamite or Sawdust.

Greenville, Dec. 28.—With a bomb in his possession, which he is scared to open, and with a note stating that if he "did not stop" he would be attended to, T. A. Honour, an alderman of West Greenville, formerly Stradleyville, spent a restless night last night.

The bomb was discovered early yesterday morning and is supposed to be some kind of an explosive placed in a can, which was set up on his front walk, containing a note reading:

"T. A. H.
"I stop now or we will stop you."

Just what this means is hard to imagine, though it was construed to mean that those who opposed the formation of a new corporation were down on the "powers that be" in the new town. Only upon the night before the election the ballot boxes were burned in the store of J. M. Phillips, and it was believed that the place was burned by those who were opposed to the incorporation, though it was never proven that this was the case.

Mr. Honour, in telling of the occurrence, stated that a member of the family went out this morning and found the can with the note sitting on the cement walk leading from the front steps to the street. This walk is not more than 15 feet in length and the can, with the explosive, if it contains an explosive, could not have been more than a few feet from the house.

There was an envelope containing the note and all of the writing was done with printed letters. That is, all the letters were cut out of some paper or magazine and glued on a plain sheet of paper, thereby dodging any handwriting experts in case there should be arrests.

The bomb is out at Mr. Honour's, and any one who is an expert at opening bombs can have the pleasure of opening this one. The can contains something heavy, or, in fact, has about the weight of a similar packet of dynamite or powder and the top is fastened down with a string.

It is the opinion of Mr. Honour and others who have seen the package that if it is opened there is a chance of the dynamite being exploded by a cap, which may be fastened in the can in such a way that this would cause the explosion. There may be nothing in the can but sawdust, but, be that as it may, no one has come forward and stated a willingness to open it and see what the contents are.

"They are going to the limit to keep us from forming an incorporation," said J. M. Phillips, the mayor, who was called over to investigate the latest "blackhand" letter, "but they have missed their guess. We are going to break up a certain element of lawless individuals, though we realize it is a hard task. They have managed to keep the affair in the courts since we started the corporation, and some one burned up my store in an effort to destroy the files and ballot boxes; but I managed to save them, and so the election was held."

OCONEE CITIZEN TAKES BRIDE

From Greenville County—Will Reside at Groom's Fair Play Home.

Fair Play, Dec. 28.—Special: On Wednesday afternoon, December 23d, at the home of the bride's parents, near Toney Creek, Greenville county, Miss Mamie Cothran, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Cothran, was united in marriage to Luther Marett, of Fair Play. The ceremony was witnessed by 100 guests, relatives of the contracting parties. Following the ceremony a reception was given in honor of this young couple and Mrs. Marett's brother and his bride.

Mr. and Mrs. Marett returned to Fair Play Thursday, the 24th. In the evening they were given a reception by the groom's parents.

The young couple will reside at Fair Play, where Mr. Marett owns a home. There are many friends who welcome Mrs. Marett into our midst and wish for them both a long and useful life.

INTERFERENCE GETS TIRESOME.

U. S. Government Speaks to England Frankly on Subject.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The United States government to-day dispatched a long note to Great Britain insisting on an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by British fleets. It warned England that much feeling has been aroused in this country and that public criticism was general over unwarranted interference with the legitimate foreign trade of the United States.

The document, constituting the strongest representation on the subject made by the United States to any of the belligerents, was cabled to Ambassador Page to be formally presented to Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary. Its preparation was begun a month ago by Solicitor Cane Johnson, Counsellor Rebert Lansing and Secretary Bryan, and during the last two weeks had the personal attention of President Wilson himself, who revised its phraseology with minute care.

As the detailed point of view of the United States in the numerous specific cases of detentions and seizures of cargoes had been set forth in a series of emphatic protests, most of which have gone unheeded, today's communication was couched in general terms covering the entire subject of the relations between the United States and Great Britain as affected by the latter's naval policy, considered highly objectionable to this government.

The note declares at the outset that the representations are made in a friendly spirit, but that the United States considers it best to speak in terms of frankness lest silence be construed as an acquiescence to a policy of Great Britain which infringes the rights of American citizens under the laws of the nations. Since France has adopted virtually the same decrees on contraband as has Great Britain, to-day's note is a statement intended for all members of the Triple Entente.

The document points out that complaints on every side and public criticism in the United States hold the British policy as directly responsible for the depression in many American industries. Reimbursement alone for cargoes unlawfully detained or seized, it states, does not remedy the evil, as the chief difficulty is the moral effect of British practice on American exporters, who are restrained from taking risks or hazards which in no case ought to surround legitimate trade between the United States and other neutral countries.

Feeling has been aroused on the subject to such an extent, the communication adds, that the American government feels compelled to ask for definite information as to Great Britain's attitude in order that it may take such measures as would protect American citizens in their rights.

Situation Not Improved.

The United States, it points out, was patient at first, realizing that hostilities had heaped a mass of burdens on the British government and thinking an early clearing of the air would come. Five months have elapsed, it asserts, with no improvement in the situation. In the meantime American shippers have availed themselves of various suggestions from the British government, such as shipping cargoes to definitely named consignees in neutral countries and the taking out of certificates from consuls in this country which followed promises of the British foreign office that the allied fleets consequently would cease detention of these cargoes. The situation, however, is described as having hardly improved after these concessions.

Reference is made in the note to the high principles of equity which have actuated Great Britain in her championship in the past of the freedom of the seas to neutral commerce, and the hope is expressed that even though a belligerent herself, she will realize the seriousness to the neutrals of continued interference.

CAMDEN MAN SHOT TO DEATH.

Twelve Years Ago Slain Man Killed Negro in Camden.

Camden, Dec. 26.—Jas. Vaughan, member of a prominent family of this county, was shot to-day and instantly killed a few miles above Camden by Joe Banks.

Vaughan's father, a witness to the killing, states that the man was drunk and deliberately walked up to Vaughan and fired two shots, one taking effect in the heart. There had been no previous difficulty between the men, and the cause of the shooting is unknown. Banks is now in the county jail.

A singular coincidence in connection with the death of Vaughan is that about 12 years ago, on Christmas Eve, Vaughan shot to death a negro on the streets of Camden. He was acquitted.

MASTER'S SALES.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF OCONEE. In Court of Common Pleas.

Pursuant to decrees of the aforesaid Court, in the cases named below, I will offer for sale, to the highest bidder, in front of the Court House door, at Walhalla, S. C., on Monday, the 4th day of January, 1915, between the legal hours of sale, the tracts of land below described: Ervin L. Haley, Plaintiff, against

Jasper G. Daniels et al., Defendants.

All that certain piece, parcel or tract of land situate, lying and being in the County of Oconee, in State of South Carolina, containing ninety-six and 79-100 acres, more or less, and being No. 56 of W. P. Anderson's Chauga Lands, as shown on plat made for him by D. Congor, in August, 1905, and being the land deeded to Jasper G. Daniels by W. P. Anderson by deed bearing date the 2d day of December, 1908.

Terms of Sale: One-half cash, and balance in one annual installment, credit portion to bear interest from the date of sale at the rate of eight per cent per annum, and to be secured by bond of purchaser, or purchasers, and mortgage of the premises; that in event of failure of the purchaser, or purchasers, to comply with the terms of sale within five days from day of sale the Master do re-advertise and resell said premises on the following sale day or some convenient sale day thereafter, at the same place and on the same terms as heretofore set out, at the risk of the former purchaser, or purchasers, and that he do continue so to do until he has found a purchaser, or purchasers, who comply with the terms of sale.

Purchaser to pay extra for papers. Sold at the risk of the former purchaser, Allen Butts.

W. O. WHITE, Master for Oconee County, S. C. Dec. 16, 1914.

John F. Craig, as Administrator, Plaintiff, against

David Green Cleveland et al., Defendants.

All that piece, parcel or tract of land situate, lying and being in the County of Oconee, in the State of South Carolina, adjoining lands of Miss Leona Kuhlmann, Moses Cantrell, J. D. Verner and others, containing eighty-four acres, more or less.

Terms of Sale: Cash. That in event of failure of the purchaser, or purchasers, to comply with the terms of sale within five days from day of sale, the Master do re-advertise and resell said premises on the following sale day or some convenient sale day thereafter, at the same place and on the same terms as heretofore set out, at the risk of the former purchaser, or purchasers, and that he do continue so to do until he has found a purchaser, or purchasers, who comply with the terms of sale.

Purchase and stamps

Master for Oconee County, S. C. Dec. 16, 1914.

S. Lee Crow, Plaintiff, against

Louis Crow et al., Defendants.

All that piece, parcel or tract of land situate, lying and being in the County of Oconee, State of South Carolina, containing fifty acres, more or less, adjoining lands of Alex Steward, S. L. Crow, Frank Heaton, Ben Chapman and others, being the tract of land conveyed to the said Luther Crow by Mary E. Holcombe and others, by deed recorded in office of Clerk of Court for Oconee County, in Deed Book "LL," page 550;

ALSO,

All that piece, parcel or tract of land situate, lying and being in the County of Oconee, State of South Carolina, containing five and one-half acres, more or less, adjoining lands of B. P. Chapman, J. D. Brown, Whit Grant and others, being the tract of land conveyed to the said Luther Crow by deed dated 8th January, 1913, by Frank Heaton, said deed being recorded in office of Clerk of Court for Oconee County, S. C., in Deed Book "QQ," page 193.

Terms of Sale: Cash. That in event of failure of the purchaser, or purchasers, to comply with the terms of sale within five days from day of sale, the Master do re-advertise and resell said premises on the following sale day or some convenient sale day thereafter, at the same place and on the same terms as heretofore set out, at the risk of the former purchaser, or purchasers, and that he do continue so to do until he has found a purchaser, or purchasers, who shall comply with the terms of sale.

Purchaser to pay extra for papers and stamps.

W. O. WHITE, Master for Oconee County, S. C. Dec. 16, 1914.

CITATION NOTICE.

The State of South Carolina, County of Oconee, (in Court of Probate).—By V. F. Martin, Judge of Probate.—Whereas, J. A. Kelley has made suit to me to grant him Letters of Administration of the Estate of and Effects of Mrs. Velen G. Kelley, deceased:

These are, therefore, to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said Mrs. Velen G. Kelley, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Walhalla Court House, South Carolina, on Tuesday, the 5th day of January, 1915, after publication hereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand and seal this 21st day of December, A. D. 1914.

(Seal.) V. F. MARTIN, Judge of Probate for Oconee County, South Carolina.

Published on the 23d and 30th days of December, 1914, in The Keowee Courier and on the Court House door for the time prescribed by law. Dec. 23, 1914.